

THE AFRICAN CONQUESTS. THE
MAKERS OF THE
KINGDOM

BY the close of 1149, the noise of the Crusade had rolled away. The King of Sicily abandoned the hopes which he had built on that great movement, the blow which he had planned against the hereditary enemy in Constantinople and the securing of the succession in Antioch. In spite of such a withdrawal, his power had attained a height from which it did not in his reign decline; on the north, he had pushed the limits of the Regno to the utmost; to the south his admirals were winning him an African empire. In his last years Roger was master of an Italian kingdom whose northern boundary ran from the sea between Gaeta and Terracina to Ceprano, Frosinone, Reate, and across to the source and mouth of the Tronto, inside which only the city of Benevento was not a part of the royal dominion. Of the islands of the Mediterranean, Malta and Gozo were his, and his authority extended along the African coast from Bona to Tripoli.